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Department of State

52

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CORRECTION ISSUED
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FROM: GUATEMALA CITY - CORRECTED COPY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 521, FEBRUARY 28, 6 PM

ACTION DEPARTMENT 521, INFORMATION CINCARIB UNNUMBERED.

PASS - DEPTAR FOR ACSI; CSAF FOR AFNIN

CINCARIB FOR POLAD

521

POL GUAT

WITH APPEARANCE AREVALO MANIFESTO (WEEKA NO 8) AND APPROACH MARCH, DURING WHICH AREVALO REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED RETURN GUATEMALA, THERE HAVE BEEN INCREASED INDICATIONS VICIOUS PLOTTING GROUPS BECOMING MORE ACTIVE IN SEEKING WAY BLOCK PRESIDENT'S ASPIRATIONS AREVALO BY OUSTING YDIGORES AND ESTABLISHMENT JUNTA.

MANY ANTI-AREVALO, ANTI-GOVT CANDIDATES REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE UNABLE DEFEAT AREVALO IN FREE ELECTION AND THAT ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE GOVERNMENT IMPOSITION "OFFICIAL CANDIDATE" PROBABLY ROBERTO ALEJOS, WHOM THEY CONSIDER "INTOLERABLE" AND ONLY SLIGHTLY LESSER EVIL THAN AREVALO. CANDIDATES SUCH AS CORDOVA CERNA, MENDEZ MONTENEGRO, BARRIOS PENA, ABUNDIO MALDONADO, FRANCISCO ARDON REPORTEDLY NOW CONVINCED COUP ONLY WAY OUT OF SITUATION AND HAVE BEEN MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES. ACCORDING TO MALDONADO, WHO CLAIMS HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS, CANDIDATES HAVE NO FIRM PLAN FOR COUP ON THEIR OWN BUT HAVE RESOLVED SUPPORT ANY COUP ATTEMPT THAT WOULD ACHIEVE AIM BLOCKING AREVALO AND ALEJOS. PERALTA REPORTEDLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM POLITICAL FIGURES AND SOME FELLOW OFFICERS TO SUPPORT COUP ACTION.

ADDING TO GENERAL INQUIETUDE IS THREATENED STRIKE BY UNI-

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VERSITY STUDENTS OVER [illegible] TUITION DECIDED ON IN DECEMBER.

This copy must be returned to RMR with notation of action taken.

ACTION ASSIGNED TO	ACTION TAKEN	DIRECTION TO RM/R
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE OF ACTION	

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-2- 521, FEBRUARY 28, 6 PM, FROM: GUATEMALA CITY

DECEMBER BY SUPERIOR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL. THERE IS ALSO TALK OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN MEMORY STUDENTS KILLED DURING MARCH-APRIL 1962 DIFFICULTIES AND REPORTS THAT SOME RINGLEADERS ABORTIVE NOVEMBER 25 AIR FORCE UPRISING HAVE RETURNED GUATEMALA. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ON OBVIOUS ALERT, AS EVIDENCED BY ESPECIALLY HEAVY SECURITY MEASURES LAST FEW DAYS.

IT WAS IN THIS EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERE THAT MINDEF PERALTA ACCOMPANIED BY PRINCIPAL ARMY LEADERS MET WITH PRESIDENT YESTERDAY MORNING AND TOLD HIM IN EFFECT THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT DEPENDED ON HIS AGREEING PREVENT RETURN OF AREVALO TO GUATEMALA. PRESIDENT UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE AGREED (NOTWITHSTANDING HIS EARLIER CONTRARY VIEW) AND BOTH ARMY LEADERS AND HE HAVE SINCE BEEN DISCUSSING WAYS AND MEANS, OR SEEKING FORMULA TO BRING THIS OFF. (I.E. PREVENT AREVALO'S RETURN TO COUNTRY.) EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS PERALTA AND OTHERS OF ARMY ALMOST AS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO ROBERTO ALEJOS AND HAVE INTIMATED TO YDIGORES THAT, ONCE AREVALO THREAT OUT OF WAY, HE SHOULD ALSO SCUTTLE ALEJOS.

BELL

DMJ/21

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